

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

All of the claims have been canceled and replaced by new independent Claim 13. It is submitted that this detailed claim overcomes the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections and also defines over any combination of the prior art of record.

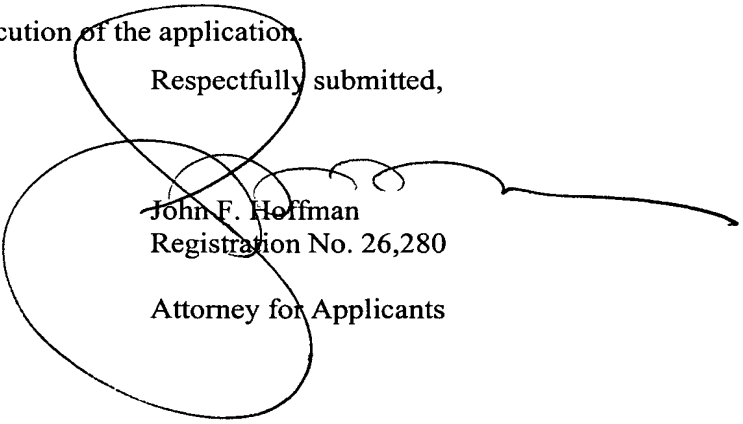
The Examiner refers to Figure 82 of Henderson to meet the limitations of the claims. However, the plate 82 of Henderson does not include fastener clearance holes that meet the last subparagraph of Claim 13. To extrapolate from Meyers the very specific clearance hole location limitation set forth in Claim 13 is a stretch that would not render the claim obvious over a combination of Henderson and Meyers within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103.

Martin fails to teach the spaced apart spacer plates that are called for in Claim 13. While Henderson does show spaced apart spacer plates, there is no disclosure in either Henderson or Martin that would suggest or incentivize one to substitute spacer plates for the zig zag trusses 46 of Martin. Martin is very specific that the tie means to secure adjacent and aligned legs of the pairs of angle members constitutes the zig zag shaped tie element 46 shown in Figure 5 in its unfolded condition and in the other figures in its folded, zig zag condition.

It is submitted that the detailed claim now presented for examination comprises a combination of limitations that would not be obvious from the prior art of record combined together in any fashion. Accordingly, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 260-460-1692 if such would be of assistance in expediting prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Application Serial No. 10/009,714  
Amendment dated March 4, 2004  
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JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280

Name of Registered Representative

  
Signature

March 4, 2004

Date